

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CONAKR 00966 181630 Z

45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-13 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 IGA-02 XMB-07

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 RSR-01 /176 W

----- 118827

R 181545 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8794

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EMIN ETRN GV JA US AG CG NI SP LI IT SZ

SUBJ: MIFERGUI MEETINGS: THREE MORE SIGNATURES

REF: A. CONAKRY 0953; B. LAGOS 4818

1. AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF TECHNICAL MEETINGS, THE " CONSTITUTIVE CONGRESS" OF MIFERGUI WAS HELD AT CONAKRY ON JUNE 16. AT THE LATTER MEETING THREE NEW PARTNERS SIGNED ON AS CLASS B MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM. THE NEW SIGNATORIES ARE NICHIMEN TRADING CO., AND THE MITSUBISHI MINING CO. OF JAPAN, AND ALOUSUISSE, THE SWISS ALUMINUM COMPANY. (GUINEA HOLDS ALL THE CLASS A SHARES). AS REPORTED REFTEL A, FOURTH NEW MEMBE R, INTRA MARITIME BANK OF SWITZERLAND, SIGNED TWO DAYS EARLIER. NICHIMEN OFFERED TO PROVIDE

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PAGE 02 CONAKR 00966 181630 Z

MANAGEMENT FOR THE PROJECT, BUT THE CONTRACT WAS AWARDED
INSTEAD
TO ALEOUSUISSE.

2. THE ISSUES OF DISTRIBUTION OF CLASS B SHARES AND PURCHASES OF
IRON ORE WERE RESOLVED AMICABLY BY REDUCING PARTICIPATION OF
CERTAIN PARTNERS SO THAT THE TOTAL SHARE OWNERSHIP IS JUST 100 PER-
CENT, AND ORE PURCHASES WILL BE EQUAL TO THE 15 MILLION TONS TO BE
MINED INITIALLY. INTRA MARTIME BANK, WHICH PLAYED A LEADING ROLE
DURING THE MEETINGS, RETAINS ITS QUOTA OF 14 PERCENT SHARE
OWNERSHIP
AND THE RIGHT TO BUY FIVE MILLION TONS OF ORE. INCIDENTALLY,
CONTRARY TO IMPRESSION GIVEN BY NIGERIAN GOVT. OFFICIAL PRESS
RELEASE REPORTED REFTEL B, NIGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT MEETING
PLEDGED TO TAKE ONE MILLION TONS OF ORE FROM CONSORTIUM AND HAS
TAKEN VERY ACTIVE PART IN MEETINGS.

3. CLASS B MEMBERS DECIDED TO PROVIDE \$1 MILLION IN FINANCING NOW
(INSTEAD OF IN THREE MONTHS) TO BEGIN FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND
EXPLORATION, AND HOPEFULLY TO GIVE GUINEA GOVT AND CONSORTIUM
FIRMER
BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION WITH LIBERIANS AND LAMCO. OUTCOME OF THESE
NEGOTIATIONS IS CONSIDERED KEY TO ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENT.
GUINEANS
HOPE TO HOLD THOSE NEGOTIATIONS EARLY JULY. NEXT MEETING OF CON-
SORTIUM HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER IN MADRID.

4. ACCORDING TO GUINEAN AND JAPANESE SOURCES, THE GUINEA GOVT.
CONTINUES TO BE DISAPPOINTED AT THE FAILURE OF U. S. STEEL OR OTHER
AMERICAN INTERESTS TO PARTICIPATE IN MIFERGUI. TWO JAPANESE
SOURCES HAVE TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT U. S. STEEL RECENTLY DISCUSSED
PARTICIPATION WITH THREE JAPANESE FIRMS INCLUDING SUMITOMO METALS
AND NIPPON STEEL. BOTH SOURCES SAID THEY BELIEVED U. S. STEEL
AND THE MAJOR JAPANESE STEEL COMPANIES WILL NOW MOVE TOWARD
PARTICIPATION. HAVE LEARNED ALSO THAT JAPANESE GOVT. HAS AGREED
PROVIDE \$7 MILLION TO FINANCE REMAINDER OF ENGINEERING STUDY FOR
TRANS- GUINEA RAILROAD.

5. SOME SPECULATION ABOUT U. S. INTEREST HAS ARISEN FROM INCIDENT
WHICH OCCURRED AT MEETING ON JUNE 16. EMBASSY OFFICER, HAVING
HEARD PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANNED SIGNING CEREMONY, WAS SENT
TO MEETING PLACE TO REQUEST COPY OF STATUTES OF THE ORGANIZATION.
INSTEAD HE WAS SEATED AMONG PARTICIPANTS AND A HASTILY MADE SIGN
SAYING " USA - OBSERVER" WAS PLACED IN FRONT OF HIM. EMBASSY IS
QUIETLY EXPLAINING THE USG WAS NOT INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AND DID
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PAGE 03 CONAKR 00966 181630 Z

NOT SEND A REPRESENTATIVE AS OBSERVER OR OTHERWISE. EMBASSY IS

STILL TRYING OBTAIN A COPY OF THE STATUTES WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED
TO THE DEPARTMENT WHEN AND IF IT IS RECEIVED.
TODMAN

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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TAGS: EMIN, ETRN, AG, CG, GV, IT, JA, LI, NI, SP, SZ, US
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SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ALGIERS
BELGRADE
BERN
MULTIPLE
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